

AMENDMENT

Kindly amend the application, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

Please delete the paragraph on page 16, line 27, to page 17, line 2, and replace it with the following paragraph:

FIG. 9 shows the strategy of replicon RNA transcription (A) and electrophoretic analysis of full length WNV genome RNA compared with the replicon variants (B) **(oligonucleotide disclosed as SEQ ID NO.: 28)**. Transcription of WNV replicon plasmids was designed to produce replicon RNA with an authentic 3' viral end and an extra nonviral guanine at the 5' end. Formaldehyde denaturing agarose gel electrophoresis compares the mobility of full length WNV genomic transcripts to transcribed replicons.